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United Nations

Report of the Commission on Human Settlements acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)

Second session (19-23 February 2001)

General Assembly
Official Records
Twenty-fifth Special Session
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Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

[6 April 2001]

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 52/190 of 18 December 1997, the General Assembly decided to hold a special session in the year 2001 for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II). In its resolution 53/180 of 15 December 1998, the Assembly further decided that the special session should be held in June 2001 for a period of three working days, and that the Commission on Human Settlements should serve as the preparatory committee for the special session.

2. The report of the Commission on Human Settlements acting as the preparatory committee for the special session on its first session is contained in document A/55/121.

3. In its resolution 55/195 of 20 December 2000, the General Assembly decided that the special session would be held from 6 to 8 June 2001 at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

II. Organizational matters

A. Opening and duration of the session

4. The Commission on Human Settlements acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) held six meetings during its second session, which was held at the United Nations Office at Nairobi from 19 to 23 February 2001.

5. The session was opened by the Chairperson of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee, Germán García Durán. A summary of his statement appears in annex IV.

6. The Minister for Roads and Public Works of Kenya, William Morogo welcomed the representatives on behalf of the President of Kenya, Daniel Toroitich arap Moi, and the Government and people of Kenya.

B. Attendance

7. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 53/180, the Commission acting as the preparatory committee was open-ended to allow the full participation of all States.

8. The following States were represented:

Algeria
Angola
Argentina
Australia
Austria
Bahrain
Bangladesh
Barbados
Belgium
Botswana
Brazil
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cambodia
Cameroon
Canada
Central African Republic
Chad
Chile
China
Colombia
Comoros
Congo
Croatia
Cuba
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Denmark
Egypt
Eritrea
Ethiopia
Finland
France
Gambia
Germany
Ghana
Greece
Guinea
Holy See
Hungary
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Iraq
Israel
Italy
Jamaica
Japan
Kenya
Kuwait
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Lesotho
Madagascar
Malawi
Malaysia
Maldives
Mauritania
Mexico
Morocco
Mozambique
Myanmar
Namibia
Nepal
Netherlands
New Zealand
Niger
Nigeria
Norway
Pakistan
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Republic of Korea
Russian Federation
Rwanda
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Sierra Leone
Somalia

South Africa
Spain
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Swaziland
Sweden
Switzerland
Thailand
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Togo
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
Turkey
Uganda
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United Republic of Tanzania
United States of America
Venezuela
Yemen
Yugoslavia
Zambia
Zimbabwe

9. The following United Nations bodies and secretariat units were represented:

Commission on Human Rights
Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services of the Secretariat
Non-governmental Organization Liaison Service of the Secretariat
Economic Commission for Africa
Economic Commission for Europe
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
United Nations Development Programme
United Nations Environment Programme
United Nations Volunteers programme
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
United Nations Population Fund

10. The following specialized agencies were represented:

International Labour Organization
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
World Bank
United Nations Industrial Development Organization

11. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented:

Commonwealth Secretariat
Council of the European Union

12. Representatives of the following national, regional and international associations of local authorities attended the session:

Arab Towns Organization
Bremen Initiative
International Union of Local Authorities
International Union of Local Authorities — Asian and Pacific Section
World Association of the Major Metropolises
World Associations of Cities and Local Authorities Coordination

13. The following local authorities were represented:

Addis Ababa City Council
Allahabad Municipality
City Assembly of Belgrade
Dubai Municipality
Entebbe Municipal Council
Libreville
Municipal Council of Nakuru

14. In addition, 126 non-governmental organizations were represented by observers.

C. Officers

15. The composition of the Bureau of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee at its second session was as follows:

Chairperson:
Germán García Durán (Colombia)

Vice-Chairpersons:
Cheikh Sadibou Fall (Senegal)
Manfred Konukiewitz (Germany)
Andrzej Olszowka (Poland)

Rapporteur:
Alireza Esmaeilzadeh (Islamic Republic of Iran)

D. Adoption of the agenda

16. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 19 February 2001, the Commission acting as the preparatory committee adopted the provisional agenda for its second session (HS/C/PC.2/1), as follows:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Credentials.
4. Preparation of a draft report on the overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.
5. Preparation of a draft declaration on cities and other human settlements in the new millennium.
6. Proposal for structuring the discussions among the various Habitat Agenda partners at the special session.
7. Recommendations of the Commission on Human Settlements at its eighteenth session and the Economic and Social Council at the coordination segment of its substantive session of 2000.
8. Provisional agenda for the special session.
9. Organizational arrangements for the special session, including the rules of procedure for the session.
10. Other matters.
11. Adoption of the report.
12. Closure of the session.

E. Organization of work

17. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 23 February 2001, the Commission acting as the preparatory committee adopted the proposed organization of work (HS/C/PC.2/1/Add.1/Rev.1). It decided to establish a Committee of the Whole chaired by Cheikh Sadibou Fall (Senegal), Vice-Chairperson, to consider items 6, 7, 8 and 9 of the agenda.

18. The Commission acting as the preparatory committee also established an open-ended drafting committee, under the chairmanship of Manfred Konukiewitz (Germany), Vice-Chairperson, for the discussion of the draft declaration on cities and other human settlements in the new millennium, as well as any draft resolutions submitted by delegations.

19. The third Vice-Chairperson, Andrzej Olszowka (Poland), would assist the Chairperson in the conduct of the work in plenary meetings.

20. The Rapporteur, Alireza Esmaeilzadeh (Islamic Republic of Iran), would be responsible for the preparation of the report of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee on its second session.

III. Preparations for the special session

A. Preparation of a draft report on the overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda

21. The Commission acting as the preparatory committee considered item 4 of its agenda at its 1st and 2nd plenary meetings, on 19 February 2001. The Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements introduced the item; a summary of her statement appears in annex II. For its consideration of the item, the Commission acting as the preparatory committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Executive Director on the preparation of a draft report on the overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda (HS/C/PC.2/2);

(b) Progress report of the Executive Director on the preparations for the special session (HS/C/PC.2/2/Add.1);

(c) Reports on the meetings of the States members of the regional commissions (HS/C/PC.2/2/Add.2, Add.3, Add.4 and Corr.1, Add.5 and Add.6);

(d) Draft *Global Report on Human Settlements*: note by the secretariat (HS/C/PC.2/BD/2).

22. At its 1st plenary meeting, the Commission acting as the preparatory committee heard statements by the representatives of Bahrain, India (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), the Russian Federation, Kenya, Cameroon, Sweden (on behalf of

the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Botswana, Ethiopia and Norway.

23. At the same meeting, a statement was made by a representative of the Advisory Committee of Local Authorities.

24. At its 2nd plenary meeting, the Commission acting as the preparatory committee heard statements by the representatives of Indonesia, Nigeria (on behalf also of the Group of African States), Canada, Bangladesh, Poland, Chile (on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States), China, Sri Lanka, Mexico, Morocco, Uganda, Spain, Zambia (on behalf of the Commonwealth countries), Cuba, Liberia, Colombia, New Zealand, Rwanda and Turkey. The observer for the Holy See also made a statement.

25. At the same meeting, statements were made by representatives of the United Nations Development Programme, the Economic Commission for Africa and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

26. At the same meeting, representatives of the Meeting of Ministers and High-level Authorities of the Housing and Urban Development Sector in Latin America and the Caribbean (MINURVI) and the David F. Kennedy Center for International Studies also made statements (see annex II for an account of the discussion).

B. Preparation of a draft declaration on cities and other human settlements in the new millennium

27. The drafting committee held six meetings, from 20 to 23 February 2001, on item 5 of the agenda.

28. The Commission acting as the preparatory committee considered item 5 at its 3rd, 4th and 5th plenary meetings, on 20 and 21 February 2001. The Executive Director introduced the item; a summary of her statement appears in annex II. For its consideration of the item the Commission acting as the preparatory committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Executive Director on a draft declaration on cities and other human settlements in the new millennium (HS/C/PC.2/3);

(b) Note by the secretariat on further actions and initiatives to implement the commitments of the Habitat Agenda (HS/C/PC.2/3/Add.1).

29. At the 3rd meeting, on 20 February, statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America, Egypt, the Republic of Korea, Brazil, Burundi, Canada, Sweden (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Pakistan, the Philippines, Zimbabwe, India, Indonesia and Bangladesh.

30. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Huairou Commission, the World Bank and the Commission on Human Rights.

31. At the 4th meeting, on 20 February, statements were made by representatives of Mexico, Morocco, the Sudan, Malawi, Thailand, Israel and China.

32. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of J. M. J. Children's Fund of Canada, the Coalition of African Organizations for Food Security and Sustainable Development, the International Labour Organization, the Habitat International Coalition and the International Cooperative Alliance.

33. At the 5th meeting, on 21 February, statements were made by the representatives of the Human Settlements Caucus, the Habitat International Coalition, the Huairou Commission, the NGO Committee on Human Settlements, the Youth Caucus and the Réseau Habitat Francophonie (see annex II for an account of the discussion).

Action taken by the Commission acting as the preparatory committee

34. At its 6th plenary meeting, on 23 February, the Commission acting as the preparatory committee heard a report by the Chairperson of the drafting committee and considered the draft declaration on cities and other human settlements in the new millennium (HS/C/PC.2/L.8) forwarded by the drafting committee.

35. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Mexico, Egypt, China, Japan and the United States of America.

36. Also at the same meeting, the Commission acting as the preparatory committee decided to transmit the text of the draft declaration to the General Assembly

for further consideration at its twenty-fifth special session (see chap. VII, sect. C, decision 2/1).

C. Proposal for structuring the discussions among the various Habitat Agenda partners at the special session; recommendations of the Commission on Human Settlements and the Economic and Social Council; provisional agenda for the special session; organizational arrangements for the special session, including the rules of procedure for the session

37. The Committee of the Whole considered items 6, 7, 8 and 9 of the agenda at five meetings, from 19 to 22 February 2001, and considered its draft report at its 5th meeting, on 22 February.

38. The Committee took up item 6 at its 1st and 5th meetings, on 19 and 22 February. At the 1st meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Burkina Faso, Canada, China, Colombia, India (on behalf also of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Jamaica, Kenya, Norway, Sweden (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Thailand, Turkey and the United States of America. At the 5th meeting, a statement was made by the observer for the Holy See.

39. The Committee took up item 7 at its 1st meeting, on 19 February. Statements were made by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kenya, Norway, the Sudan, Sweden (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Turkey and the United States of America.

40. The Committee took up items 8 and 9 together at its 2nd and 5th meetings, on 20 and 22 February. At the 1st meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Algeria, Burkina Faso, Canada, China, Jamaica, Morocco, Norway, Sweden (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Trinidad and Tobago and the United States of America. At the 5th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of China, Sweden (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union) and the United States of America.

41. The Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole presented the Committee's report to the Commission acting as the preparatory committee at its 6th plenary meeting, on 23 February.

Action taken by the Commission acting as the preparatory committee

42. At its 6th plenary meeting, on 23 February, the Commission acting as the preparatory committee heard statements by the representatives of Egypt, India, Mexico, Senegal, Sweden (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union) and the United States of America on the report of the Committee of the Whole.

43. At the same meeting, the Commission acting as the preparatory committee adopted the report of the Committee of the Whole, as amended (see annex III).

44. Also at the same meeting, the Commission acting as the preparatory committee took the following action on the draft resolution and draft decisions referred to it by the Committee of the Whole.

Organizational arrangements for the Thematic Committee

45. The Commission acting as the preparatory committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Organizational arrangements for the Thematic Committee", proposed by the Bureau (HS/C/PC.2/L.7). The Chairperson read out a revision to the text. The Commission acting as the preparatory committee recommended to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session the adoption of the draft resolution, as revised (see chap. VII, sect. A).

Provisional agenda of the special session

46. The Commission acting as the preparatory committee had before it a draft entitled "Provisional agenda of the twenty-fifth special session of the General Assembly", proposed by the Bureau (HS/C/PC.2/L.3). The Commission acting as the preparatory committee recommended to the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth special session the adoption of the draft decision (see chap. VII, sect. B, draft decision I).

Organizational arrangements for the special session

47. The Commission acting as the preparatory committee had before it a draft decision entitled "Organizational arrangements for the twenty-fifth special session of the General Assembly", proposed by the Bureau (HS/C/PC.2/L.2).

48. Statements were made by the representatives of Brazil, Canada, China, India, Norway, Sweden (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union) and the United States of America.

49. The Commission acting as the preparatory committee adopted the oral amendments to paragraphs 17 and 18 of the draft decision proposed by the representative of the United States of America, and adopted paragraph 20 by a majority of States present and voting. The Commission acting as the preparatory committee then recommended to the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth special session the adoption of the draft decision as a whole, as amended (see chap. VII, sect. B, draft decision II).

Arrangements regarding accreditation

50. The Commission acting as the preparatory committee had before it a draft decision entitled "Arrangements regarding accreditation of Habitat Agenda partners to the special session", proposed by the Bureau (HS/C/PC.2/L.5). The Commission acting as the preparatory committee adopted the draft decision (see chap. VII, sect. C, decision 2/2).

Further arrangements regarding accreditation

51. The Commission acting as the preparatory committee had before it a draft decision entitled "Further arrangements regarding accreditation of Habitat Agenda partners to the special session", proposed by the Bureau (HS/C/PC.2/L.4). The Commission acting as the preparatory committee adopted the draft decision (see chap. VII, sect. C, decision 2/3).

Preparatory process for the Thematic Committee

52. The Commission acting as the preparatory committee had before it a draft decision entitled "Preparatory process for the Thematic Committee", proposed by the Bureau (HS/C/PC.2/L.6).

53. Statements were made by the representatives of Bangladesh, Canada, China, Egypt, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Swaziland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union).

54. The Commission acting as the preparatory committee adopted the draft decision, as orally amended (see chap. VII, sect. C, decision 2/4).

Recommendations of the Economic and Social Council

55. The Commission acting as the preparatory committee had before it a draft decision proposed by the Bureau (HS/C/PC.2/L.9), bringing to the attention of the General Assembly at its special session, for further consideration, agreed conclusions 2000/1 of the Economic and Social Council pertaining to the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda by the United Nations system. The Commission acting as the preparatory committee adopted the draft decision (see chap. VII, sect. C, decision 2/5).

IV. Credentials

56. In accordance with rule 11, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure adopted at the organizational session of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee, the Bureau reported to the Commission acting as the preparatory committee at its 6th plenary meeting, on 23 February 2001, that it had examined the credentials submitted by delegations attending its second session and had found them to be in order. The Commission acting as the preparatory committee approved the report of the Bureau at the same meeting.

V. Adoption of the report of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee on its second session

57. At the 6th plenary meeting, on 23 February 2001, the Rapporteur, Alireza Esmaeilzadeh (Islamic Republic of Iran), introduced the draft report of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee for

the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) on its second session (HS/C/PC.2/L.1).

58. Statements were made by the representatives of Morocco, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Pakistan and Thailand.

59. At the same meeting, the Commission acting as the preparatory committee adopted its draft report as amended and entrusted the secretariat of the Commission with its completion.

VI. Closure of the session

60. At the 6th plenary meeting, on 23 February 2001, a closing statement was made by the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka; a summary of her statement appears in annex V.

VII. Recommendations of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee and decisions adopted by the Commission acting as the preparatory committee

A. Draft resolution recommended for adoption by the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session*

61. The Commission on Human Settlements acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) recommends to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session the adoption of the following draft resolution:

* Adopted by the General Assembly at its 97th plenary meeting, on 21 March 2001 (see Assembly resolution 55/246).

Organizational arrangements for the Thematic Committee

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 55/195 of 20 December 2000, in which it decided that the special session should have a plenary, an ad hoc committee of the whole and a thematic committee, the details of which were to be worked out by the Commission acting as the preparatory committee at its second session,

Decides to adopt the organizational arrangements for the Thematic Committee contained in the annex to the present resolution.

Annex

Organizational arrangements for the Thematic Committee

1. The Thematic Committee shall hold five meetings, as follows:

Wednesday, 6 June 2001, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.;

Thursday, 7 June 2001, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.;

Friday, 8 June 2001, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

2. The five meetings shall focus on the two main Habitat Agenda themes: "adequate shelter for all" and "sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world".

3. The Bureau of the Thematic Committee shall consist of one Chairperson, three Vice-Chairpersons and one Rapporteur. The Chairperson of the Thematic Committee will be assisted by facilitators who are representatives of Member States.

4. The Thematic Committee shall be open to Member States, observer States and observers, entities of the United Nations system, including programmes, funds, specialized agencies and regional commissions with expertise in the subject matter of the special session, and accredited Habitat Agenda partners.

5. To facilitate the presentations, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, in consultation with Governments and accredited Habitat Agenda partners, shall be entrusted with the selection of thematic experiences. Submissions may come from the full range of Governments of Member States and accredited

Habitat Agenda partners. Presentations may be made only by members of governmental delegations or accredited Habitat Agenda partners.

6. The Chairperson of the Thematic Committee shall present a summary of the deliberations at the concluding plenary meeting of the special session.

B. Draft decisions recommended for adoption by the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth special session

62. The Commission for Human Settlements acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) recommends to the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth special session the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I
Provisional agenda of the twenty-fifth special session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly adopts the following provisional agenda for its twenty-fifth special session:

1. Opening of the session by the Chairman of the delegation of Finland.
2. Minute of silent prayer or meditation.
3. Credentials of representatives to the special session of the General Assembly:
   (a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee;
   (b) Report of the Credentials Committee.
4. Election of the President.
5. Report of the Commission on Human Settlements acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II).
6. Organization of the session.
7. Adoption of the agenda.
8. Review and appraisal of progress made in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.
9. Further actions and initiatives for overcoming obstacles to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.
10. Declaration on cities and other human settlements in the new millennium.
11. Adoption of the final document(s).

Draft decision II
Organizational arrangements for the twenty-fifth special session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly adopts the following organizational arrangements for its twenty-fifth special session:

Date and duration

1. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 55/195 of 20 December 2000, the special session shall be held from 6 to 8 June 2001 at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

President

2. The twenty-fifth special session shall be held under the presidency of the President of the fifty-fifth regular session of the General Assembly.

Vice-Presidents

3. The Vice-Presidents of the twenty-fifth special session shall be the same as those of the fifty-fifth regular session of the General Assembly.

Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole

4. In accordance with resolution 55/195, the General Assembly shall establish an Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the Twenty-fifth Special Session.

5. The Bureau of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole shall consist of one Chairperson, three Vice-Chairpersons and a Rapporteur. The Bureau of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee shall serve as the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole.

Thematic Committee

6. In accordance with resolution 55/195, the General Assembly shall establish a Thematic Committee. The Bureau of the Thematic Committee shall consist of one Chairperson, three Vice-Chairpersons and a Rapporteur.

Credentials Committee

7. The Credentials Committee of the twenty-fifth special session shall have the same membership as the Credentials Committee of the fifty-fifth regular session of the General Assembly.

General Committee

8. The General Committee of the twenty-fifth special session shall consist of the President and the twenty-one Vice-Presidents of the special session, the Chairpersons of the six Main Committees of the fifty-fifth regular session of the General Assembly, the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole and the Chairperson of the Thematic Committee.

Rules of procedure

9. The rules of procedure of the General Assembly shall apply at the twenty-fifth special session.

Allocation of agenda items

10. All items of the draft provisional agenda shall be considered directly in the plenary of the special session; the substantive items shall also be allocated to the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole.

Level of representation

11. In its resolution 55/195, the General Assembly reiterated its invitation to Member States to participate in the special session at the highest political level possible.

Schedule of plenary meetings

12. Six plenary meetings will be held, as follows:

Wednesday, 6 June, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.;

Thursday, 7 June, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.;

Friday, 8 June, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Debate in plenary

13. Statements in the debate in the plenary of the special session shall be limited to five minutes.

14. The list of speakers for the debate in plenary shall be established by a drawing of lots.

15. Member States, the Holy See and Switzerland, in their capacity as observer States, and Palestine, in its capacity as observer, will be invited to participate in the drawing of lots.

16. The order of precedence for the list of speakers will be as follows: (a) heads of State/heads of Government; (b) Vice-Presidents/Crown Princes or Princesses; (c) the highest-ranking official of the Holy See and Switzerland, in their capacity as observer States, and of Palestine, in its capacity as observer; (d) Deputy Prime Ministers; (e) Ministers; (f) Vice-Ministers; and (g) chairmen of delegations.

Participation of speakers other than Member States

17. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 55/194 of 20 December 2000, subject to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, observers may make statements in the debate in plenary as follows:

(a) Organizations and entities having received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly may participate in the twenty-fifth special session as observers;

(b) In accordance with resolutions 53/180 of 15 December 1998 and 55/195, States members of the specialized agencies that are not Members of the United Nations may participate in the twenty-fifth special session as observers;

(c) In accordance with resolution 55/195, the following associate members of the regional commissions may participate in the twenty-fifth special session as observers: American Samoa, Anguilla, Aruba, British Virgin Islands, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Cook Islands, French Polynesia, Guam, Montserrat, Netherlands Antilles, New Caledonia, Niue, Puerto Rico, United States Virgin Islands.

18. Subject to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, entities of the United Nations system, including programmes, funds, specialized agencies and

regional commissions, with specific expertise in the subject matter of the special session, may make statements in the debate in plenary, provided that they are represented at the highest level. Representatives of the United Nations system may also make statements in the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole and in the Thematic Committee.

19. In accordance with resolution 55/194, given the time available, a limited number of representatives of local authorities, non-governmental organizations and other Habitat Agenda partners may make statements in the debate in plenary, and the President of the General Assembly is requested to submit the list of selected Habitat Agenda partners to the Member States in a timely manner for approval and to ensure that the selection of speakers is made on an equal and transparent basis, taking into account the geographical representation and diversity of Habitat Agenda partners. Also in accordance with resolution 55/194, representatives of local authorities, non-governmental organizations and other Habitat Agenda partners may make statements in the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole and in the Thematic Committee.

20. The last two speaking slots at each plenary meeting, with the exception of the first and last plenary meetings, may be reserved for participants other than Member States, the Holy See, Switzerland and Palestine, provided that they are represented at the highest level.

21. The arrangements outlined in paragraphs 18 to 20 above shall in no way create a precedent for other special sessions of the General Assembly.

C. Decisions adopted by the Commission acting as the preparatory committee

63. The Commission on Human Settlements acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) adopted the following decisions:

Decision 2/1
Draft declaration on cities and other human settlements in the new millennium

The Commission on Human Settlements acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) decides to transmit the text of the following draft declaration to the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth special session for further consideration:

Draft declaration on cities and other human settlements in the new millennium

A. Renewing the commitments made at the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)

1. We, the representatives of Governments, being guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, meeting at this special session of the General Assembly to review the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, to recognize progress, and to identify obstacles and emerging issues, reaffirm our will and commitment to fully implement the Istanbul Declaration and the Habitat Agenda and decide on further initiatives, in the spirit of the Millennium Declaration. The Istanbul Declaration and the Habitat Agenda will remain the basic framework for sustainable human settlements development in the years to come.

2. We reaffirm that human beings are at the centre of our concern for sustainable development and that they are the basis for our actions in implementing the Habitat Agenda.

3. We wish to stress that this is a special moment in the development of human settlements, when half of the world's six billion people will be living in cities and the world is facing unprecedented growth of urban population, mainly in the developing world. The decisions we make now will have far-reaching consequences. We note with great concern that one out of four of the world's urban population is living below the poverty line. In many cities, confronted with rapid growth, environmental problems and the slow pace of

economic development, it has not been possible to meet the challenges of generating sufficient employment, providing adequate housing and meeting the basic needs of the citizens.

4. We re-emphasize that rural and urban areas are economically, socially and environmentally interdependent, and that cities and towns are engines of growth contributing to the development of both rural and urban human settlements. Half of the world's inhabitants live in rural settlements, and, in Africa and Asia, the population in the rural areas represents a majority. Integrated physical planning and balanced attention to rural and urban living conditions are of crucial importance for all nations. Full advantage must be taken of the complementary contributions and linkages between rural and urban areas, by giving appropriate attention to their different economic, social and environmental requirements. While addressing urban poverty, it is also essential to eradicate rural poverty and to improve living conditions, as well as to create employment and educational opportunities in rural settlements and small and medium-sized cities and towns in rural areas.

5. We reconfirm our determination to address at all levels the deteriorating environmental conditions that threaten the health and quality of life of billions of people. Some activities at the local level that degrade the environment have implications at the global level and need to be addressed in the context of human settlements.

6. We reconfirm the goals and principles of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world, as set out in the Habitat Agenda,[1] which form the basis of our commitments.

7. We renew and reaffirm our commitments in the Habitat Agenda concerning adequate shelter for all, sustainable human settlements, enablement and participation, gender equality, financing shelter and human settlements, international cooperation, and assessing progress.

B. Welcoming progress in implementing the Habitat Agenda

8. We commend the efforts by all levels of government, the United Nations, other intergovernmental organizations and Habitat Agenda partners and welcome the progress made thus far towards implementation of the Habitat Agenda. [We take note with satisfaction of the comprehensive nature of national and regional reports on the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and of the analysis of these reports by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) as contained in the report of the Executive Director on the overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda (HS/IC/PC.2/2), taking into account the specific priorities and objectives for each region.]

9. We welcome the decision by the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-sixth session that the Special Rapporteur whose mandate will focus on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living should, as a part of his mandate, develop a regular dialogue and discuss possible areas of collaboration with Governments, relevant United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, international organizations in the field of housing rights, including the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), non-governmental organizations and international financial institutions, and make recommendations on the realization of the rights relevant to the mandate.

10. We also take note with satisfaction of the growing awareness of the need to address in an integrated manner poverty, homelessness, unemployment, lack of basic services, exclusion of women and of children and marginalized groups, including indigenous communities, and social fragmentation in order to achieve better, more liveable and inclusive human settlements worldwide. Governments, international organizations and members of civil society have made continuous efforts to address these problems.

11. We take note of the development of integrated and participatory approaches to urban environmental planning and management in relation to the implementation of Agenda 21. In this regard we welcome the support provided by many Governments to mechanisms for consultations and partnerships among interested parties to prepare and implement

[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II, para. 25.

local environmental plans and local Agenda 21 initiatives.

12. We welcome the increasing economic role of cities and towns in our globalizing world and the progress made in forging public-private partnerships and strengthening small and microenterprises. Cities and towns hold the potential to maximize the benefits and to offset the negative consequences of globalization. Well-managed cities can provide an economic environment capable of generating employment opportunities as well as offering a diversity of goods and services.

13. We welcome the efforts made so far by many developing countries in effecting decentralization in the management of cities as a means of strengthening the operation of the local authorities in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

14. We also welcome the contributions of national and other Governments, which have the primary responsibility for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda through their laws, policies and programmes.

15. We appreciate the important contribution made by local authorities worldwide in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda through concerted efforts and strengthened partnerships between Governments at all levels, resulting in the improved condition of human settlements, including improved urban governance. Broad-based participation in decision-making, together with accountability, simplicity of procedures and transparency, is imperative to prevent corruption and to promote public interests. In this regard, we note with satisfaction the increased priority given to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and to the principles of good governance at all levels.

16. We recognize the important work done by the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. At the same time, we encourage them to continue promoting the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

17. We recognize that the overall thrust of the new strategic vision of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and its emphasis on the two global campaigns on secure tenure and urban governance are strategic points of entry for the effective implementation of the Habitat Agenda, especially for guiding international cooperation on adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development. In this regard, we welcome the establishment of the Advisory Committee of Local Authorities and express our appreciation for its contributions to the work of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the preparation of the special session of the General Assembly.

C. Recognizing gaps and obstacles

18. We take note with great concern of the current conditions of human settlements worldwide especially as documented in the third *Global Report on Human Settlements*. Although Governments and their Habitat Agenda partners have continued efforts to fulfil their commitments, widespread poverty remains the core obstacle and environmental conditions need significant improvement in many countries. Critically, the majority of people living in poverty still lack legal security of tenure for their dwellings, while others lack even basic shelter. Thus, serious impediments to sustainable human settlements development still persist.

19. We note with concern that one of the basic obstacles to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda is the discrepancy between commitments made at Istanbul and the political will to fulfil them. We also acknowledge the gaps in both public information and awareness-raising as impediments.

20. We recognize that serious financial constraints give rise to acute problems of adequate shelter, housing and human settlements in countries which receive an influx of refugees resulting from ongoing conflicts, human-made and natural disasters and other calamities taking place in neighbouring countries.

21. We acknowledge the gaps in shelter and urban policies that have limited the opportunities for participation and partnership and have made it difficult to convert best practices into good policies. We are also deeply concerned that many women still do not participate fully on the basis of equality in all spheres of society, while at the same time suffering to a greater extent the effects of poverty.

22. We also acknowledge the fact that the urbanization process in the world has resulted in metropolitan concentrations that extend over the administrative boundaries of the original cities, expand over two or more administrative units, have local authorities with different capacities and priorities, and suffer an absence of coordination.

23. We recognize major obstacles that prevent the efficient functioning of land and housing markets to ensure an adequate supply of shelter. Actions recommended in paragraph 76 of the Habitat Agenda have not been fully implemented.

24. We have identified considerable obstacles associated with limited economic, technological and institutional capacities at all levels of government, particularly in the developing and the least developed countries. We recognize the absence of comprehensive and inclusive policies for capacity-building institutions and their networking. [We further note that good governance at all levels with full transparency, simplicity of procedure and accountability is yet to be realized at different levels of decision-making and management.]

25. We have also identified economic policies and financial market constraints at all levels that have prevented the mobilization of adequate resources to meet many countries' sustainable human settlements needs.

26. We recognize that domestic resource mobilization as well as sound national policies are crucial for financing shelter and human settlements. Although Governments have the primary responsibility for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, international support is likewise essential. We regret that international cooperation in shelter and human settlements development has not been enhanced significantly since 1996, which is a growing cause for concern. We also regret that many countries have been unable to make sufficient use of market mechanisms in support of their financial needs for shelter and human settlements development.

27. We recognize that there is unequal access to information and communication technologies, particularly in the developing countries, which has resulted in the inability of Governments and Habitat Agenda partners to make the best use of this resource in implementing the Habitat Agenda.

28. We recognize that the consequences of these gaps and obstacles are serious: for the first time in human history a majority of the world's six billion people will live in cities. Many people have experienced a deterioration, not an improvement, in their living environment. The gaps and obstacles encountered in the past five years have slowed down global progress towards sustainable human settlements development. It is essential that actions are taken to ensure that the Habitat Agenda is now translated into policy and into practice in every country.

D. Taking further actions

29. We, the representatives of Governments, affirm our commitment to overcoming obstacles encountered in implementing the Habitat Agenda, especially poverty, which we consider to be the major underlying factor, and to strengthening and safeguarding national and international enabling environments, and to this end pledge to accelerate our efforts to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Habitat Agenda. Determined to give new momentum to our efforts to improve the human settlements condition, we here set out further initiatives for achieving those ends. At the start of the new millennium, aware of our responsibilities toward future generations, we are strongly committed to adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development in a urbanizing world. We invite people from all countries and from all walks of life, as well as the international community, to join in renewed dedication to our shared vision for a more just and equitable world.

30. We reaffirm that the family is the basic unit of society and as such should be strengthened. It is entitled to receive comprehensive protection and support. In different cultural, political and social systems, various forms of the family exist. Marriage must be entered into with the free consent of the intending spouses, and husband and wife should be equal partners. The rights, capabilities and responsibilities of family members must be respected. Human settlements planning should take into account the constructive role of the family in the design, development and management of such settlements. Society should facilitate, as appropriate, all necessary conditions for its integration, reunification, preservation, improvement, and protection within adequate shelter, and with access to basic services and a sustainable livelihood.[2]

31. We resolve in the framework inter alia of a poverty eradication strategy to encourage social and economic policies that are designed to meet the housing needs of families and their individual

[2] Ibid., para. 31.

members, with particular attention to the care of children.[3]

32. We also resolve to promote changes in attitudes, structures, policies, laws and other practices relating to gender in order to eliminate all obstacles to human dignity and equality in family and society and to promote full and equal participation of women and men, inter alia, in the formulation, implementation and follow-up of public policies and programmes.[4]

33. We invite Governments, the United Nations and other international organizations to strengthen the quality and consistency of their support to poverty eradication and sustainable human settlements development, in particular to the least developed countries. This in turn requires not only renewed political will, but also the mobilization and allocation of new and additional resources at both the national and international levels. We urge the strengthening of international assistance to developing countries in their efforts to alleviate poverty, including by creating an enabling environment that would facilitate the integration of developing countries into the world economy, improving their market access, facilitating the flow of financial resources and implementing fully and effectively all initiatives already launched regarding debt relief.

[We emphasize that the international community should consider further measures that would lead to durable solutions to the external debt of all developing countries.]

[In this connection, we express our appreciation to the developed countries that have agreed to and have reached the target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for overall official development assistance, and call upon the developed countries that have not yet done so to strengthen their efforts to achieve, as soon as possible, the agreed target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for overall official development assistance and, where agreed, within that target, to earmark 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of their gross national product for the least developed countries.]

[We call upon the countries that have agreed to the target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for overall official development assistance and have not yet met this target to strive to fulfil the yet to be achieved target as soon as possible.]

[In this connection, we will strive to fulfil the yet to be attained internationally agreed target of 0.7 per cent of the gross national product of developed countries for overall official development assistance as soon as possible.]

[34. We request the international community to strongly support poverty eradication, and recommend to actively consider the establishment of a world solidarity fund for poverty eradication to finance and realize, inter alia, the social policies and programmes of the Habitat Agenda to address challenges of poverty eradication and sustainable development in developing countries, especially least developed countries, bearing in mind the voluntary nature of the contributions.]

35. We resolve to raise awareness about human settlements challenges and solutions through full and open dissemination of information and commit ourselves to renew and foster political will at all levels.

36. We also resolve to empower the poor and vulnerable, inter alia through promoting greater security of tenure and enabling better access to information and good practices, including awareness of legal rights. We aim to develop specific policies for overcoming growing urban poverty.

37. We further resolve to empower local authorities, non-governmental organizations and other Habitat Agenda partners, within the legal framework and according to the conditions of each country, to play a more effective role in shelter provision and in sustainable human settlements development. This can be achieved through effective decentralization, where appropriate, of responsibilities, policy management, decision-making authority and sufficient resources, where possible including revenue collection authority to local authorities, through participation and local democracy as well as through international cooperation and partnerships. In particular, the effective role of women in decision-making in local authorities should be ensured, if necessary through appropriate mechanisms.

[In this context, we agree to establish an intergovernmental forum to deliberate on guiding principles of local self-government with a view to reaching a consensus on an enabling international

[3] Ibid., para. 40 (k).

[4] Ibid., para. 119 (e).

framework that would guide national legislative reforms leading to effective decentralization policies.]

[In this context we undertake to deliberate further on all issues related to effective decentralization and strengthening of local authorities.]

38. We encourage authorities within metropolitan areas to develop mechanisms and to foster, as appropriate, legal, financial, administrative, planning and coordination instruments in order to achieve more equitable, ordered and functional cities.

39. We resolve to build capacities and networks to enable all partners to play an effective role in shelter and human settlements development. The management of urbanization processes requires strong and accountable public institutions able to provide an effective framework in which everybody has access to basic services. Capacity-building needs to be directed towards, inter alia, supporting decentralization and participatory urban management processes. We also pledge to strengthen the institutions and legal frameworks that assist and allow broad-based participation in decision-making and in the implementation of human settlements strategies, policies and programmes.

40. We acknowledge, value and support volunteer work and the work of community-based organizations. Voluntary practices offer an important contribution to the development of human settlements, as they help to build strong, cohesive communities, as well as to develop a sense of social solidarity, generating in the process significant economic outputs.

41. We are committed to improving prevention, preparedness, mitigation and response capacities with the contribution of national and international cooperation networks, in order to reduce the vulnerability of human settlements to natural and human-made disasters and to implement effective post-disaster programmes for the affected human settlements, aimed, inter alia, at meeting immediate needs, reducing future disaster risks and making rebuilt human settlements accessible for all.

42. We commit ourselves to the goal of gender equality in human settlements development and we resolve to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women as effective ways to combat poverty and to stimulate the development of human settlements that are truly sustainable. We further commit ourselves to formulating and strengthening policies and practices to promote the full and equal participation of women in human settlements planning and decision-making.[5]

[All inequalities with respect to their security of tenure as well as their individual rights to own and inherit property and to enter into contractual agreements shall be eliminated.[6]]

[Respect for their security of tenure as well as individual rights to their own and inherited property and to enter into contractual agreements shall be upheld.]

43. We also commit ourselves to strengthening existing financial mechanisms and identifying and developing appropriate innovative approaches for financing shelter and human settlements development at all levels. Furthermore, we resolve to undertake legislative and administrative reforms to give women full and equal access to economic resources. We resolve to promote increased and equal access for all people to open, efficient, effective and appropriate housing finance and to support savings mechanisms in the informal sector, where appropriate, and to strengthen regulatory and legal frameworks and financial management capacity at all appropriate levels.

44. We resolve to promote the upgrading of slums and regularization of squatter settlements, within the legal framework of each country. In particular, we reiterate the aim of the Cities without Slums initiatives to make a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020.

45. We affirm that, in the interest of affordable housing for the poor, it is necessary to promote cooperation among countries for popularizing the use of adequate low-cost and sustainable building materials and appropriate technology for the construction of adequate low-cost houses and services within the reach of the poor, especially in slums and unplanned settlements.

46. We resolve to intensify efforts to include countries with economies in transition in the system of multilateral cooperation in sustainable development of human settlements, by developing the support for these countries to determine an adequate level of

[5] Ibid., para. 46 (e).
[6] Ibid., para. 78 (f).

decentralization in the governance of urban and rural human settlements. We reiterate our commitment to involve in these efforts the United Nations financial institutions, international and national foundations, the private sector and other partners of the Habitat Agenda.

47. We take note with satisfaction of the ongoing housing policy formulation by many countries. We resolve to undertake legislative and administrative reforms needed to support the efforts of people, individually and collectively, to produce affordable shelter, to adopt proactive planning of land supply, to promote the efficient functioning of land markets and administration, to eradicate legal and social barriers to the equal and equitable access to land and to ensure that the equal rights of women and men to land and property are protected under the law. In implementing the above, we acknowledge the need for vigorously promoting affordable shelter and basic services for the homeless, preventing forced evictions that are contrary to the law and facilitating access of all people, particularly the poor and vulnerable groups, to information on housing legislation, including any legal rights, and to remedies where these laws are violated. In this connection, we note with appreciation and support the initial approach and activities of the Global Campaign for Secure Tenure.

48. We see the implementation of the Habitat Agenda as an integral part of the overall fight for the eradication of poverty. The implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the pursuit of sustainable development are intimately linked and interdependent, and human settlements development is a key factor for sustainable development. The World Summit for Sustainable Development to be held at in Johannesburg in 2002 provides a good opportunity to further pursue and intensify this relationship.

49. We resolve to intensify efforts for ensuring transparent, responsible, accountable, just, effective and efficient governance of cities and other human settlements. We recognize that [urban governance] [good governance at all levels] is essential to addressing the challenge of urban poverty as well as the challenge of environmental degradation and to harnessing the potential opportunities offered by globalization. Cities need specific approaches and methodologies to improve governance, to plan and act strategically in order to reduce urban poverty and social exclusion and to improve the economic and social status of all citizens and protect the environment in a sustainable way. In connection with this we note the importance of promoting sustainable livelihoods through education and training particularly for the poor and vulnerable groups.

50. The HIV/AIDS pandemic has developed in a much faster and much more dramatic way than could have been foreseen at Istanbul. We resolve to intensify efforts at the international and national levels against HIV/AIDS and in particular to formulate and implement appropriate policies and actions to address the impact of HIV/AIDS on human settlements. We recognize the problem of accessing financial resources for housing by HIV/AIDS victims and the need for shelter solutions for accommodating HIV/AIDS victims, especially the orphans and the terminally ill.

51. We resolve to intensify efforts to enhance the role of youth and civil society, and to increase cooperation with parliamentarians in human settlements development.

52. We also resolve to promote more determined action against urban crime and violence, particularly violence against women, children and the elderly, through a coordinated response at all levels, in accordance, as appropriate, with integrated crime prevention action plans. These plans might include a diagnostic survey of crime phenomena, the identification of all the relevant actors in crime prevention and the fight against crime, the establishment of consultation mechanisms for the design of a coherent strategy and the elaboration of possible solutions to these problems.

53. We further resolve to seriously address the challenges posed by wars, conflicts, refugees and human-made disasters on human settlements, and commit ourselves through enhanced international cooperation mechanisms to support post-conflict and post-disaster countries, with special emphasis on the provision of shelter and other basic services, particularly to vulnerable groups, refugees and internally displaced persons, as well as to facilitate restoring security of tenure and property rights.

54. We resolve to promote access to safe drinking water for all and to facilitate the provision of basic infrastructure and urban services, including adequate sanitation, waste management and sustainable transport which is integrated and accessible to all, including people with disabilities. To this end, we need to promote transparent and accountable management of

public services as well as partnerships with the private sector and non-profit organizations for the delivery of these services.

55. We commit ourselves to intensifying efforts for improving sustainable environmental planning and management practices, and for promoting sustainable production and consumption patterns in human settlements in all countries, in particular in industrialized countries. Integrated approaches addressing social, economic and environmental issues should be taken more systematically at all levels. Agenda 21 and the local Agenda 21 initiatives provide important inputs to this process.

56. We reiterate the need to integrate the local Agenda 21 process, as mentioned above, in the global plan of action for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. The aims, policies and strategies of both agendas should be harmonized in order to promote sustainable urban planning and management.

57. We also reiterate that Governments, local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners should regularly monitor and evaluate their own performances, and in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda Governments at all levels should identify and disseminate best practices and apply shelter and human settlements development indicators. To this end, we need to strengthen the capacity among all Habitat Agenda partners to handle and analyse information as well as to communicate with each other.

58. A further goal is to translate best practices into policies and permit their replication. In this respect, the international community should ensure the effective formatting and dissemination of proven best practices and policies.

59. Recognizing that those living in poverty are in fact rich in innovative faculties and the importance of microcredit in eradicating poverty and improving human settlements, and following success stories of some countries in this field, we encourage Governments, within their legal framework, and both national and international financial institutions to strengthen the institutional frameworks by which it would be possible to extend microcredit to those living in poverty, particularly the women, without collateral or security.

60. We reiterate that international cooperation takes on added significance and importance in the light of recent trends towards the increased globalization and interdependence of the world economy. There is a need for the political will of all States and for specific action at the international level, including among cities, to inspire, encourage and strengthen existing and innovative forms of cooperation and partnership, coordination at all levels and increased investment from all sources, including the private sector, in order to contribute effectively to the improvement of shelter conditions, especially in developing countries. In this regard we also resolve to pay particular attention to cities and other human settlements in critical natural environments such as arid and semi-arid areas with the purpose of providing assistance and support for their development.

61. We reconfirm the role of the Commission on Human Settlements and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in advocating, promoting, monitoring and assessing progress made in implementing the goals of adequate shelter for all through providing legal security of tenure and sustainable human settlements development in all countries and in combining best practices, enabling policies, and compiling legislation and action plans for identifying illustrative cities for the two global campaigns and further advancing the normative[7] debate and operational action on major human settlements issues, inter alia, by timely and regular publication of global flagship reports. We also support the establishment of the Habitat Agenda Task Manager System, designed to allow better monitoring and mutual reinforcement of actions taken by international agencies in support of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

62. We agree to regularly review further implementation of the Habitat Agenda with a view to assessing progress and considering new initiatives.

[7] The term "norm" refers to generally accepted standards, guidelines or principles, and should not be understood to imply that they are intended to be implemented through binding legal instruments.

Decision 2/2
Arrangements regarding accreditation of Habitat Agenda partners to the special session

In accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 55/194 of 20 December 2000 on arrangements regarding accreditation of Habitat Agenda partners to the special session, the Commission on Human Settlements acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) decides to accredit the local authorities, non-governmental organizations and other Habitat Agenda partners listed in the annex to document HS/C/PC.2/4/Add.2.

Decision 2/3
Further arrangements regarding accreditation of Habitat Agenda partners to the special session

The Commission on Human Settlements acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) decides that accreditation of Habitat Agenda partners shall be further open to members of the Advisory Committee of Local Authorities established pursuant to Commission on Human Settlements resolution 17/18 of 14 May 1999.

Decision 2/4
Preparatory process for the Thematic Committee

1. The purpose of the Thematic Committee, through presentations and the dialogues they stimulate, is to tell the important story of the development of human settlements since the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) in 1996, and to guide the quest for solutions and progress that will benefit all of the world's citizens. How do we create, nurture and build on the partnerships that are needed to implement the Habitat Agenda at the local, national and international levels? By the end of the session, participants should feel that they have a practical basis on which to move forward with their own initiatives and link with others in order to share knowledge and experience, and initiate action.

A. Themes

2. The five meetings will focus on the two main Habitat Agenda themes, "adequate shelter for all" and "sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world". The following subthemes are offered as guidance, and presentations may cover one or more of these elements and subthemes. Key items used in the Guidelines for Country Reporting[8] may also be referred to. Cross-cutting elements should also be addressed in each presentation, to the extent possible, to help to give structure and depth to the dialogues that will be held. Across the presentations as a whole, the aim will be to cover as many of the subthemes as possible.

Themes	*Subthemes*
Adequate shelter for all	Shelter
Sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world	Social development and eradication of poverty
	Geographically balanced settlement structures
	Environmental management
	Economic development
	Governance
	Financing for urban development
	City development strategies

3. Cross-cutting elements:

- Participation, partnerships and cooperation at and between all levels, including the international level;
- Poverty eradication;
- Gender equality;
- Inclusion of disadvantaged groups;
- Scaling-up local practices;
- Sharing knowledge and learning.

[8] Available on the Istanbul+5 web site (www.istanbul5.org).

B. Criteria for selection

4. To facilitate the presentation, the secretariat, in consultation with Governments, inter alia through the Committee of Permanent Representatives, and accredited Habitat Agenda partners, would be entrusted with the selection of thematic experiences in accordance with the criteria listed below:

(a) Regional balance: preference will be given, to the extent possible, to examples from developing countries;

(b) Examples from neighbourhood, local/city-wide, intermediate and national and international levels;

(c) Examples from best practices, enabling policies, legislation, simplified procedures and proven action plans;

(d) Innovative, sustainable and successful examples since the Habitat II Conference, with a potential for replicability;

(e) Partnership involving a range of actors;

(f) Contribution to good coverage of the themes, subthemes and cross-cutting elements.

5. Submissions may come from the full range of Governments of Member States and accredited Habitat Agenda partners. Presentations may be made only by members of governmental delegations and accredited Habitat Agenda partners.

6. The selection of presentations according to the selection criteria will be done, as far as possible, in a manner that ensures equitable geographical representation and coverage of themes and elements. The emphasis, however, will be on conveying the experiences and challenges faced by the developing world, addressing the role of partnerships and ensuring good coverage of cross-cutting themes.

C. Format for presentation

1. Initial submissions for selection by the secretariat

7. Each submission should consist of a descriptive summary. The summary should reflect the agreed format and criteria set out on the Istanbul+5 web site (www.istanbul5.org). Applicants should confirm that they will meet the deadline of 4 May 2001 for providing the full presentation in the required electronic format. They should indicate the information already available on the proposed presentation and/or give a work plan indicating how they will collect and compile the necessary information. They should provide details of who is likely to make the presentation and confirm that they will attend as members of governmental delegations or accredited Habitat Agenda partners.

2. Final submissions of selected presentations to the secretariat

8. Final submissions should be provided in the required electronic format as specified on the Istanbul+5 web site (www.istanbul5.org). These will be extended and illustrated summaries, making reference to more full descriptions of the examples available elsewhere, including in publications, and specifically targeted at the special session or produced as an output of it.

9. The presentations should address the following key questions:

- What were the key issues being addressed?
- What were the key contextual factors?
- What were the constraints that made solutions difficult to implement?
- What options were considered for moving forward?
- How did you choose between the options and approaches?
- What resources did you need to mobilize to create a solution that made sense to all actors?
- Has it been replicated?
- What is necessary for reproducing it on a larger scale?
- What lessons were learned?

3. Format for the presentations to the Thematic Committee

10. The thematic discussions should be stimulating and dynamic. Presentations will be limited to a maximum of 15 minutes and should preferably be shorter. The use of a range of presentational formats should form part of the selection process, for example, audio-visual material and creative formats to stimulate debate and discussion.

D. Managing the meetings

11. The thematic dialogues will be planned by the Secretariat and the selected facilitators in advance of the special session. They will form the basis of the provisional agenda for the Thematic Committee.

12. The Chairperson of the meetings will be assisted by facilitators who will be members of official delegations. They will be involved in the design of the dialogues to ensure that they achieve a proper balance of presentation and discussion, and should be professionally skilled and experienced in this field. They should reflect a balance of developed and developing country viewpoints. Member States are invited to make nominations by 13 March for selection by the Secretariat, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

13. Each dialogue will need to have an introduction by the Chairperson, setting out the agreed agenda, and to be completed with a summary by the Chairperson.

14. As a guideline, presentations will be limited to 15 minutes (less if possible), and there will be between 12 and 16 presentations over the five meetings in order to maximize the period given to a facilitated discussion. Parts of the discussion may be structured around particular short interventions by selected contributors on chosen themes. Other interventions will need to be limited to a maximum of three minutes. A continuous series of "end-to-end" presentations should be avoided.

E. Timetable

15. The timetable for selection of presentations and web publication will be as follows:

13 March 2001	Submission of descriptive summaries of presentation proposals by Governments and Habitat Agenda partners to be considered for selection along with presentations available to the Secretariat from other sources, such as the Best Practice database.
	Between 13 and 30 March, meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the Office of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to discuss the proposed shortlist of presentations for the special session.
30 March 2001	The Secretariat will make a final selection of the proposed presentations.
4 May 2001	Submission of completed presentations by selected candidates in the required electronic format.
23 May 2001	Publication of presentations in electronic format together with the provisional agenda of the Thematic Committee on the Istanbul+5 web site (www.istanbul5.org) to inform participants so that they can prepare for the dialogues.

Decision 2/5
Recommendations of the Economic and Social Council

The Commission on Human Settlements acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), taking into account General Assembly resolution 55/195 of 20 December 2000 on preparations for the special session, decides to bring agreed conclusions 2000/1, on the coordinated implementation by the United Nations system of the Habitat Agenda, adopted by the Economic and Social Council at the coordination segment of its substantive session of 2000, to the attention of the General Assembly for its further consideration at the special session.

Annex I

Documents before the Commission acting as the preparatory committee at its second session

HS/C/PC.2/1 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 and Add.1/Rev.1	Provisional agenda and annotations, including organization of work
HS/C/PC.2/2	Preparation of a draft report on the overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda: report of the Executive Director
HS/C/PC.2/2/Add.1	Preparations for the special session: progress report of the Executive Director
HS/C/PC.2/2/Add.2	Report on the meeting of the States members of the Economic Commission for Africa
HS/C/PC.2/2/Add.3	Report on the meeting of the States members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
HS/C/PC.2/2/Add.4 and Corr.1	Report on the meeting of the States members of the Economic Commission for Europe
HS/C/PC.2/2/Add.5	Report on the meeting of the States members of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
HS/C/PC.2/2/Add.6	Report on the meeting of the States members of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
HS/C/PC.2/2/Add.7	Draft resolutions prepared by the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)
HS/C/PC.2/3	Preparation of a draft declaration on cities and other human settlements in the new millennium: report of the Executive Director
HS/C/PC.2/3/Add.1	Further actions and initiatives to implement the commitments of the Habitat Agenda: note by the secretariat
HS/C/PC.2/4	Proposal for structuring the discussions among the various Habitat Agenda partners at the special session
HS/C/PC.2/4/Add.1	Accreditation and organization of work at the special session

HS/C/PC.2/4/Add.2	Participation and accreditation of local authorities, non-governmental organizations and other Habitat Agenda partners
HS/C/PC.2/4/Add.3	Organizational arrangements for the Thematic Committee
HS/C/PC.2/4/Add.4	Further arrangements regarding accreditation of Habitat Agenda partners to the special session
HS/C/PC.2/5	Recommendations of the Commission on Human Settlements at its eighteenth session and the Economic and Social Council at the coordination segment of its substantive session of 2000
HS/C/PC.2/6	Provisional agenda for the special session
HS/C/PC.2/7	Letter dated 30 January 2001 from the President of the General Assembly to the Chairperson of the Commission on Human Settlements acting as the preparatory committee for the special session
HS/C/PC.2/7/Add.1	Draft provisional agenda and organizational arrangements for the special session
HS/C/PC.2/7/Add.2	Establishment of the list of speakers for the debate in the plenary of the special session
HS/C/PC.2/BD/1	Principal resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session of relevance to the work of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee
HS/C/PC.2/BD/2	Draft *Global Report on Human Settlements*: note by the secretariat
HS/C/PC.2/INF/1	State of preparedness of documents for the second session of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee as at 25 December 2000
HS/C/PC.2/INF/2/Rev.1	List of documents before the Commission acting as the preparatory committee at its second session
HS/C/PC.2/CW/L.1 and Add.1	Draft report of the Committee of the Whole
HS/C/PC.2/L.1	Draft report of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee on the work of its second session
HS/C/PC.2/L.2	Draft decision proposed by the Bureau of the Commission entitled "Organizational arrangements for the special session"

HS/C/PC.2/L.3	Draft decision proposed by the Bureau of the Commission entitled "Provisional agenda of the twenty-fifth special session of the General Assembly"
HS/C/PC.2/L.4	Draft decision proposed by the Bureau of the Commission entitled "Further arrangements regarding accreditation of Habitat Agenda partners to the special session"
HS/C/PC.2/L.4	Draft decision proposed by the Bureau of the Commission entitled "Further arrangements regarding accreditation of Habitat Agenda partners to the special session"
HS/C/PC.2/L.5	Draft decision proposed by the Bureau of the Commission entitled "Arrangements regarding accreditation of Habitat Agenda partners to the special session"
HS/C/PC.2/L.6	Draft decision proposed by the Bureau of the Commission entitled "Preparatory process for the Thematic Committee"
HS/C/PC.2/L.7	Draft resolution proposed by the Bureau of the Commission entitled "Organizational arrangements for the Thematic Committee"
HS/C/PC.2/L.8	Draft declaration on cities and other human settlements in the new millennium
HS/C/PC.2/L.9	Draft decision proposed by the Bureau of the Commission

Annex II

Summary of the discussions in plenary on items 4 and 5 of the agenda

Item 4
Preparation of a draft report on the overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda

Introduction

1. Before introducing agenda item 4, the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), Anna K. Tibaijuka, extended a warm welcome to all participants and, in particular, to the first Executive Director of the Centre, Arcot Ramachandran.

2. She said that the upcoming special session marked the time for Governments to reaffirm their commitments to the Habitat Agenda, and that the decisions made at the current preparatory meeting would directly influence the future policies of Governments and the international community. Since the role of national Governments in an increasingly globalized and urbanized world had become more complex, both national and global governance had to be redefined to adapt to the evolving realities and to define new partnerships for development. The new era of globalization of the economy and information, and of greater localization of social and political life, marked the wider context in which the special session should be placed.

3. The current session should aim to better coordinate the review and appraisal of shelter and sustainable urban development policies. The experience from five years of work should enable participants to increase their common determination and decide on new actions and initiatives for fulfilling the commitments entered into at Istanbul. The draft report on the overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda (see HS/C/PC.2/2) focused on that challenge.

4. She said that, since 1998, vigorous efforts had been made to revitalize the Centre, and her appointment as Executive Director was part of that process. As a result of the measures adopted by the Commission on Human Settlements at its seventeenth and eighteenth sessions to strengthen the Centre politically, and to strengthen its human and financial resources, the Centre was currently positioned to fulfil its mandate and support the Commission acting as the preparatory committee in successfully concluding the preparatory process.

5. In its resolution 55/194, the General Assembly had requested the Executive Director to report to it at its special session on the implementation of the twin goals of the Habitat Agenda, namely adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development, as well as on the actions and achievements of the global campaigns for secure tenure and for urban governance. In its final form, the draft review and appraisal would constitute the report to be submitted as a major input to the special session in June 2001.

6. In line with the request made by the Commission on Human Settlements at its seventeenth session, the Advisory Committee of Local Authorities had been established in Venice in January 2000 as a think tank on urban issues and the role of local authorities. The Committee had held its third meeting at the United Nations Office at Nairobi on 17 February 2000, and she welcomed its Chairperson, Joan Clos, the Mayor of Barcelona.

7. Since partnership was the key for the successful implementation of the Istanbul agenda, a number of steps had been taken to improve coordination between the Centre and other agencies and bodies of the United Nations system, as well as with other partners. Coordination with UNEP had been improved and the Cities Alliance had been established between the Centre and the World Bank and would become a major force for implementing the two goals of the Habitat Agenda. The Centre had also organized and contributed to a number of coordination meetings, including inter-agency meetings on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda by the United Nations system, held in February and June 2000, and the coordination segment of the substantive session of 2000 of the Economic and Social Council, held in July 2000. She hoped that the Commission acting as the preparatory committee would support the agreed conclusions of the Economic and Social Council on the coordinated implementation by the United Nations system of the Habitat Agenda, which would lend more vigour and

authority to the Centre's role as focal point for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

8. By mid-February 2001, 82 national reports had been received by the Centre, which assessed the progress made in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda since 1996, including policy changes, successes and failures at country and local levels and the contribution of international cooperation. At the country level, many of the reviews had been undertaken through national Habitat committees. She commended the efforts of Governments and their partners in preparing those reports, which indicated that many States had made considerable progress towards implementing the Habitat Agenda.

9. At the regional level, the regional commissions, in close collaboration with the Centre, had organized five meetings in preparation for the special session, attended by central and local governments and Habitat Agenda partners including parliamentarians, non-governmental organizations, women and youth organizations. She thanked the regional commissions and all the regional institutions as well as the Governments that had participated in organizing the meetings.

10. The purpose of the special session was not only to review but also to identify and agree on concrete initiatives for extending global action to fulfil the Habitat Agenda commitments. The regional meetings had adopted forward-looking strategies for further implementation of the Habitat Agenda. The preliminary draft entitled "Further actions and initiatives to implement the commitments of the Habitat Agenda" (HS/C/PC.2/3/Add.1) was based mainly on the outcomes of the regional meetings, and reflected their aspirations. She hoped that the current session of the preparatory committee would be able to move that process forward.

11. The preparatory process had benefited from the generous financial support of a number of Member States, which had greatly contributed to its success, including the holding, in November 2000, of an expert group meeting on urbanization and the international community at Västerås, Sweden, for which she expressed her gratitude.

12. The Commission on Human Settlements at its eighteenth session held in the previous week in Nairobi, had adopted recommendations for the consideration of the preparatory committee. The General Assembly, as outlined in the documents before the meeting, had also called upon the committee to take a number of important decisions. That underlined the crucial nature of the current meeting for the ultimate success of the special session. It provided States with a very real opportunity to assess progress made by the secretariat and, more importantly, the progress of States and partners in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

13. In conclusion, she stressed her personal commitment and that of the entire staff of the Centre to making the second session of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee a complete success and a milestone on the road to New York in June 2001.

Discussion

14. Most delegations expressed satisfaction with the draft text of the report on the overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. Several pointed out that all their comments on the original draft text submitted by the secretariat to the regional meetings were reflected in the current draft. Several delegations stated that the draft report provided good insights into how the Habitat Agenda was being implemented in the regions. The importance of documenting best practices separately from the general report was also stressed.

15. Several delegations stressed that continued strengthening of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) was an essential part of the full implementation of the Habitat Agenda, and also expressed their satisfaction with the current process of restructuring and revitalization. Some delegations offered their support for the Centre's two global campaigns, on secure tenure and urban governance, as a useful strategic entry point in the implementation of Habitat Agenda activities. One delegation pointed out that the report on the overall review of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda should include a section on the contributions and shortcomings of the Centre regarding its detailed implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

16. Several delegations provided insightful reports on the implementation of the Habitat Agenda in their individual countries. A number of steps taken were reported, such as political, institutional and legislative reforms. Some delegations pointed out that, despite the many achievements made since Habitat II, shelter and

human settlements conditions were worse now than they had been five years earlier, especially in rural areas, and much work lay ahead. It was emphasized, however, that there was now increased awareness among Governments and other stakeholders of the human settlements challenges confronting countries and individual settlements.

17. Several delegations pointed out the increasing understanding of the role of Governments as enablers rather than as providers. Others stressed the existence of bottlenecks and obstacles in their efforts to implement the Habitat Agenda. In that context, it was pointed out that the report on the overall review of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda should also emphasize what needed to be done in the future, and not only what had already been achieved.

18. Several delegations pointed to the need to analyse the existing linkages and the symbiotic relationship between rural and urban areas. It was essential to improve economic conditions in rural areas in order to reduce the pressure on many rural dwellers to migrate and join the queues of the unemployed in the cities. Many delegations pointed out that the understanding of urbanization processes was a major challenge in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, with many stressing that the Centre should place greater emphasis on rural human settlements issues.

19. Some delegations pointed out that insufficient attention had been paid to the issues faced by countries with economies in transition in the draft report. Referring to paragraphs 62 and 63 of the draft report, they called for a primary focus on the issues faced by such countries, while addressing the major challenges they faced in transforming their economies and social structures towards a market-based system. The consequences of such a transformation regarding property rights and housing requirements needed particular focus.

20. One delegation pointed out that the final report on the overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda should include a discussion of the impact of globalization on human settlements.

21. Some delegations expressed concern that the draft report did not make sufficient reference to the information submitted by Governments in their national reports, and urged that the final report make greater use of that source of information. One delegation further stressed the importance of objectivity in the report, and the need for it to reflect the impact of the Asian and Pacific financial crisis on human settlements development.

22. Some delegations pointed to the issues of democracy, transparency, decentralization and the role of local authorities as essential to the successful implementation of the Habitat Agenda. The principles of universality, proximity and subsidiarity were mentioned by several delegations in that connection as essential to effective local governance. It was also pointed out that national Governments had the central role to play in the facilitation of effective local governance. Moreover, some delegations pointed out that the role of central governments in implementing the Habitat Agenda should not be underestimated.

23. Several delegations emphasized the importance of poverty reduction initiatives and their relationship to human settlements development. Some delegations pointed to the importance of the equal participation of men and women. The increased use of partnerships among different actors, in particular of public-private partnerships to complement public programmes, was identified as among the most crucial factors in addressing the goals of the Habitat Agenda.

24. Several delegations pointed out the importance of paying attention to environmental degradation and its relationship with human settlements development. The potential synergies between UNEP and the Centre should thus be given attention in implementing the Habitat Agenda.

25. One delegation pointed out the need to focus the review of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda on concrete actions and results, rather than on attempts to renegotiate the agreed text, as had too frequently happened with previous five-year reviews. One delegation stated that there was neither time nor need to renegotiate the Habitat Agenda. What was needed was action. Another delegation pointed out that the report should avoid including controversial issues, unless they had been thoroughly discussed. Several delegations pointed out the importance of paying attention to the international, regional, national and local urban observatories for monitoring the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

26. Several delegations expressed concern that the role of the family and its position as the basic unit of society — elaborated in paragraph 31 of the Habitat Agenda — was not reflected in the indicators used in

measuring progress in the implementation, nor had the role of the family been included in the draft reports discussed under item 4. They pointed out the centrality of the family and the need for a review of the role and contributions of the family in achieving the goals of the Habitat Agenda, one pointing out that factors such as the feminization of poverty and the increased number of female-headed households were linked to such causes as the breakdown of traditional family structures. The delegations expressed support for the draft resolution on the promotion of family support policies in the review and implementation of the Habitat Agenda included in document HS/C/PC.2/2/Add.7. The delegation of Poland stated that it wished its co-sponsorship of the resolution to be recorded in the report on the session.

27. One delegation requested the removal of all references to the World Charter of Local Self-Government from the final version of the report on the overall review of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

Item 5
Preparation of a draft declaration on cities and other human settlements in the new millennium

Introduction

28. Agenda item 5 and the draft declaration (HS/C/PC.2/3) were introduced by the Executive Director, who recalled that in its resolution 1/3 of 12 May 2000, the Commission acting as the preparatory committee had requested the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to prepare a draft declaration to be submitted to the committee at its second session. The secretariat had organized an expert group meeting in Sweden in November 2000, at which it had received observations and remarks on the substantive issues dealt with in an initial draft of the declaration. It was the secretariat's hope that the Commission acting as the preparatory committee would negotiate a well-balanced text that combined lessons learned and future initiatives, policy statements and concrete proposals. The Executive Director also explained that, in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 55/195, the secretariat had found it necessary to compile a preliminary document (HS/C/PC.2/3/Add.1) on further actions and initiatives to implement the commitments of the Habitat Agenda in order to facilitate the work of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee at its second session. That draft document took into account the national reports received thus far by the Centre.

Discussion

29. All delegations reaffirmed their commitment to the full implementation of the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements and the Habitat Agenda. Many delegations welcomed the draft declaration on cities and other human settlements in the new millennium, describing it as a useful basis for deliberations leading to a final declaration. Some delegations recommended a more visionary and inspiring declaration, while others, deeming it to be too long and too technical, suggested a sharpening of its focus.

30. While most delegations generally agreed with the contents of sections A and B of the draft declaration, some felt that a number of issues should have received more emphasis, including urban environment; linkages between the local implementation of Agenda 21 and the Habitat Agenda; poverty reduction; the role of women in human settlements; and the role of youth and problems affecting children. Several delegations were of the view that gender equality as enshrined in the Habitat Agenda had not received enough attention. Other delegations recommended inclusion of yet other issues in the declaration, in particular the family; commitment to international cooperation; peace as a precondition for human settlements development; mitigation and management of natural disasters; more mechanisms for monitoring the implementation of the Habitat Agenda (in addition to the Global Urban Observatory); empowerment of the poor; reform of legal systems and raising of awareness regarding tenure; affirmative action for marginalized groups; dialogue among partners at the local level; and public housing policies.

31. One delegation considered that the declaration should be more policy-oriented, with closer links to the two themes of the Habitat Agenda, "adequate shelter for all" and "sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world". Some delegations emphasized the need to highlight the rights-based approach to shelter development, including women's equal rights to secure tenure. Other delegations felt that the right to an adequate standard of living, including shelter, should be clearly re-

emphasized in the declaration, including the need for practical steps and tools for enhancing the realization of this right.

32. Some delegations favoured, in addition to the declaration, a separate outcome of the special session in the form of a proposal for further action, as suggested in document HS/C/PC.2/3/Add.1. It was proposed that much of section D of the draft declaration be moved into this document, which should re-emphasize the spirit of partnership with local authorities and other Habitat partners; others considered it necessary to have a single outcome containing the draft declaration.

33. Some delegations found that the declaration focused almost exclusively on cities, virtually neglecting other human settlements, including rural settlements and small and medium-sized towns, and suggested that the strengthening of rural-urban linkages, including employment aspects, be included in the declaration. In similar vein, some delegations wished the concepts of "city-region", "mega-cities" and "metropolitan management" to be included in the text of the declaration.

34. While recognizing the important role of local authorities in ensuring sustainable urban development and providing access to shelter for all, several delegations requested deletion of references to the proposed world charter of local self-government from the declaration, since no consensus had been reached regarding such a charter. In addition, one delegation recommended deletion of the reference to the Advisory Committee of Local Authorities (para. 17), as this was not directly related to the subject of the paragraph. Several delegations also recommended that, in general, all controversial issues on which there was no agreement among Governments be left out of the declaration. Some delegations further recommended that the guiding role of central government in central-local government relations be emphasized, while another wished to see a better understanding of decentralization within federal States reflected in the declaration.

35. Several delegations called for the declaration to take greater account of the regional proceedings and declarations, while one delegation proposed a specific reference, within the declaration, to assistance for cities in difficult physical environments, especially deserts, mountains and cold regions. One delegation also felt that the text needed to be streamlined and rendered more concise, while another recommended inclusion of intraregional cooperation in human settlements development.

36. In addition to making specific recommendations on the draft declaration and the document on further actions and initiatives to implement the commitments of the Habitat Agenda, many delegations described progress made within their countries in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda since 1996, as well as in the preparatory process for the special session of the General Assembly. They highlighted a wide range of experiences and constraints which they considered relevant to item 5 of the agenda. Experiences mentioned included upgrading of slums and informal settlements; city development strategies and urban renewal; strengthening of local governance; post-war reconstruction and rehabilitation; partnership initiatives; national infrastructure development; national land, settlement and environment policies and legislation; poverty reduction efforts, including microfinance programmes and subsidy schemes; capacity-building programmes; and sanitation programmes. Among the key constraints to human settlements development cited by delegations were rapid population increase and urbanization; lack of access to investment capital; regional financial crises and economic recessions; lack of information, especially on technology; low policy-making and implementation capacity; negative impacts of globalization and of structural adjustment policies; and the international debt problem.

37. The Chairperson requested all delegations that had made specific textual proposals to present them to the drafting committee for its consideration. In concluding remarks, the representative of the secretariat recommended, on the basis of the discussion, that the Commission acting as the preparatory committee prepare two complementary outcome documents or chapters. The first would be a political declaration on cities and other human settlements in the new millennium, based on document HS/C/PC.2/3. This would be shorter than the existing draft and, in particular, section D of the document would be reduced by, for example, retaining only paragraphs 17, 20, 22, 23, 28 and 30. The second document or chapter would deal with future actions and initiatives to implement the commitments of the Habitat Agenda. It would be based on an elaboration of

the existing text of section D of document HS/C/PC.2/3, incorporating a number of paragraphs taken from document HS/C/PC.2/3/Add.1. The secretariat representative further stated that this recommendation would be brought to the attention of the drafting committee, where it was expected that both documents might be negotiated and amended in order to reflect accurately the views of the delegations.

Annex III

Report of the Committee of the Whole

1. The Committee of the Whole, chaired by Cheikh Sadibou Fall (Senegal), one of the Vice-Chairs, held five meetings, from 19 to 22 February 2001, and considered agenda items 6, 7, 8 and 9. At its 5th meeting, on 22 February 2001, the Committee considered and adopted its report on those items.

Item 6
Proposal for structuring the discussions among the various Habitat Agenda partners at the special session

2. The Committee of the Whole began its consideration of item 6 of the agenda at its 1st meeting, on 19 February.

3. A representative of the secretariat drew attention to the proposal for structuring the discussion among Habitat Agenda partners at the special session (HS/C/PC.2/4 and Add.1-4). She also introduced document HS/C/PC.2/BD/1, which contained the full texts of the pertinent General Assembly resolutions. The documents had been prepared in response to the recommendations of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee to focus the special session on sharing views on local, national and regional experiences in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, to concentrate on presentations, including thematic presentation, by a range of Habitat Agenda partners, and to encourage discussions among them.

4. The work of the Centre at the General Assembly had been marked by an important partnership with the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services of the United Nations Secretariat in New York. A representative of the General Assembly Servicing Branch of that Department was attending the current session of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee in an advisory capacity in order to provide the necessary information on procedures and on the organization of work at the special session, and thus help the Committee in its deliberations on the item under consideration.

5. One of the tasks of the current meeting was to design the structure and organization of work of an innovative feature of the special session, the Thematic Committee. In document HS/C/PC.2/4/Add.1, the secretariat had attempted to draw up a list of criteria for the selection of the thematic presentations on lessons and experiences since Istanbul. The secretariat representative invited the Committee to consider those and other suggestions, in order to enable the secretariat to proceed expeditiously with the identification of thematic experiences. She also proposed the regrouping of themes according to concrete and relevant clusters drawn from the Habitat Agenda and from the guidelines that had been used for country reporting.

6. During the Committee's consideration of this item, the representatives of Burkina Faso, Canada, China, Colombia, India (on behalf also of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Jamaica, Kenya, Norway, Sweden (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Thailand, Turkey and the United States of America took the floor.

7. Participants in the discussion pointed to the fact that clear instructions had been given by the General Assembly in its resolutions 55/194 and 55/195, which directly addressed the scope of, and preparations for, the special session. In particular, in its resolution 55/194, section II, paragraph 1, the General Assembly had stated that representatives of local authorities, non-governmental organizations and other Habitat Agenda partners might make statements in the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole and in the Thematic Committee of the special session.

8. A number of speakers stressed the critical role played by the partners, particularly the local authorities, and pointed out that, to ensure the successful attainment of the goals of the Habitat Agenda, it was necessary for those partners to be actively associated with all aspects of its implementation. Many speakers held that the debate at the special session should be positive and flexible, rather than restrictive, and that there should be an opportunity for a limited number of participants from the Habitat Agenda partners to also participate in the plenary.

9. The view was expressed that it was necessary to adhere strictly to what was laid down in the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, to be consistent with the procedures established for previous special sessions of the General Assembly, and to set out a clear conclusion on the participation of partners.

10. It was observed that the Thematic Committee needed to be organized in a way that allowed for extensive and animated discussions. The debate should be interactive, focusing on examples of best practices, with both economic and social dimensions, that were transferable to the circumstances in other areas and different situations. It was crucial to ensure that the Thematic Committee reflected a gender balance, as well as a geographical balance. Particular account had to be taken of the need for balanced participation of the developing countries and of the small island developing States. The Habitat Agenda partners permitted to address the Thematic Committee had to have a direct relevance to the themes under discussion. In addition, the themes to be selected should be focused on the twin objectives of the Habitat Agenda itself, as well as on capacity-building, technology assistance and international cooperation. The modalities of the discussions should strictly follow the rules of procedure for the participation of non-governmental organizations in the work of the United Nations. Many speakers considered that it was the task of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee at its current session to elaborate the details of a draft resolution on the Thematic Committee.

11. Some speakers enquired which partners had submitted their applications, in line with the relevant deadlines, to participate in the work of the special session, taking into account the fact that there were some new partners which had not attended Habitat II and which did not have consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. Another sought clarification on the logistics of the composition of the Thematic Committee and the need to establish clearly just what the partners would be empowered to do at the special session.

12. The view was also expressed that the Committee of the Whole of the special session should focus its work on the declaration on cities and other human settlements in the new millennium and on the action needed to implement the Habitat Agenda.

13. It was explained that a draft paper, prepared by the Chairperson of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee, and addressing a number of the points and concerns raised in the discussion on the organizational aspects of the special session, would be submitted for the consideration of representatives at the current session.

14. The Committee of the Whole agreed to set up an open-ended working group to consider outstanding issues under the item and to report to the Committee on the outcome of its deliberations.

15. At the 4th meeting of the Committee, on 22 February, the coordinator of the open-ended working group reported that consensus had been reached on an amended version of the proposal for structuring the discussions among the various Habitat Agenda partners at the special session, and that those amendments would be incorporated into two documents to be made available for the consideration and approval of the Committee of the Whole at its next meeting, later in the day.

16. At the 5th meeting of the Committee, on 22 February, the coordinator of the open-ended working group introduced a draft resolution for adoption by the General Assembly on organizational arrangements for the Thematic Committee of the special session, proposed by the Bureau (HS/C/PC.2/L.7). During the discussion, the observer for the Holy See took the floor. The Committee adopted the draft resolution, as amended.

17. At the same meeting, the coordinator of the open-ended working group introduced a draft decision for adoption by the Commission acting as the preparatory committee on the preparatory process for the Thematic Committee, proposed by the Bureau (HS/C/PC.2/L.6). During the discussion, the representatives of Burkina Faso, Canada, China, Egypt, Finland, India, Kenya, Morocco, Senegal, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States of America took the floor. The Committee adopted the draft resolution, as amended.

Item 7
Recommendations of the Commission on Human Settlements at its eighteenth session and the Economic and Social Council at the coordination segment of its substantive session of 2000

18. The Committee of the Whole began its consideration of item 7 at its 1st meeting, on 19 February.

19. Introducing the item, the Chairperson of the Commission on Human Settlements at its eighteenth session, Sid-Ali Ketrandji, said that the Commission had held intensive and fruitful discussions, covering a very comprehensive agenda. The Commission had adopted 12 resolutions, of which at least 6 were extremely relevant to the work of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee. Those resolutions were:

(a) Resolution 18/3, on the global campaigns for secure tenure and urban governance;

(b) Resolution 18/9, on revitalization of the Centre;

(c) Resolution 18/6, on the work programme and budget of the Centre for the biennium 2002-2003;

(d) Resolution 18/10, on the role of local authorities;

(e) Resolution 18/11, on intensifying dialogue on effective decentralization and strengthening of local authorities within the framework of implementing the Habitat Agenda;

(f) Resolution 18/5, on international cooperation and the review of mechanisms for monitoring the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

20. He briefly described the main thrust of the resolutions enumerated and noted that the Committee might wish to take them into account during its consideration of the very important issues before it. An advance copy of the report on the work of the Commission at its eighteenth session had also been submitted to the Commission acting as the preparatory committee for its consideration and appropriate action.

21. A representative of the secretariat elaborated further and introduced two documents for the Committee's consideration: a note by the secretariat containing information on agreed conclusions 2001/1, on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda by the United Nations system, adopted by the Economic and Social Council at the coordination segment of its substantive session of 2000 (HS/C/PC.2/5) and a note by the secretariat on the principal resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session of relevance to the Commission acting as the preparatory committee (HS/C/PC.2/BD/1).

22. The representative of the secretariat highlighted three paragraphs of the Economic and Social Council's agreed conclusions which were of particular relevance to the Commission acting as the preparatory committee. In paragraph 4 the Council requested United Nations bodies and agencies to review the follow-up of their commitments to implement the Habitat Agenda. In paragraph 6 the Council requested the Secretary-General to review the participation of the Centre in all aspects of the work of the Administrative Committee on Coordination. In paragraph 12 it requested the Secretary-General to consider adopting a task manager system to facilitate coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda and to streamline reporting to the Commission and the Council.

23. She also highlighted certain actions taken by the General Assembly. She emphasized in particular General Assembly resolutions 55/195 and 55/196, under which the Commission acting as the preparatory committee was required to decide on matters pertaining to the participation of Habitat Agenda partners in the special session, including their accreditation, the details of the workings of the plenary, the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole and the Thematic Committee for the special session, and the preparation of the discussion of the items on the special session's provisional agenda.

24. During the Committee's consideration of this item, the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kenya, Norway, the Sudan, Sweden (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Turkey and the United States of America took the floor.

25. Several speakers expressed strong agreement with the proposals of the Economic and Social Council concerning the Centre's participation in the Administrative Council on Coordination and for the

establishment of a task manager system at the Centre. Several speakers also supported the proposals contained in paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 55/195 pertaining to the participation of the less developed countries in the special session. They urged those Governments that were able to do so to assist the less developed countries in that regard.

26. Concerning what action, if any, the Commission acting as the preparatory committee could take to promote those issues, it was proposed that recommendations be elaborated for the consideration of the General Assembly. The opinion was voiced that, because the Commission acting as the preparatory committee existed for only a limited time and with a limited mandate, such recommendations would have no force. Several representatives were of the view that, at the current session, efforts should be focused on producing a draft declaration on cities and other human settlements in the new millennium, in accordance with the mandate given by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/194.

27. In the light of the discussion, the Committee of the Whole agreed that the decisions of the Economic and Social Council should be forwarded as a recommendation of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee to the General Assembly for adoption.

Item 8
Provisional agenda for the special session

Item 9
Organizational arrangements for the special session, including the rules of procedure of the session

28. The Committee of the Whole took up items 8 and 9 together at its 2nd meeting, on 20 February.

29. Introducing the two items, a representative of the secretariat briefly described three documents before the Committee for its consideration: a letter from the President of the General Assembly to the Chairperson of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee, setting out recommendations for the conduct of the special session (HS/C/PC.2/7); a proposal by the Chairperson of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee for a draft provisional agenda and organizational arrangements for the special session (HS/C/PC.2/7/Add.1); and a proposal by the secretariat for the selection of speakers at the plenary of the special session by the drawing of lots (HS/C/PC.2/7/Add.2).

30. During the Committee's consideration of this item, the representatives of Algeria, Burkina Faso, Canada, China, Jamaica, Morocco, Norway, Sweden (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Trinidad and Tobago and the United States of America took the floor.

31. The debate focused on a proposal by the secretariat to allot two speaking slots at each meeting of the plenary (except the first and last meetings) of the special session to Habitat Agenda partners. Some speakers were strongly in favour of the proposal, describing it as a gesture of inclusiveness in the spirit of Habitat II and a recognition that the involvement of the partners was essential to the successful implementation of the Habitat Agenda. Some delegations stressed that that arrangement had been recommended by the President of the General Assembly. Other delegations opposed the proposal. Some delegations stated that an identical proposal had been deleted by the General Assembly that same week in the context of the organizational arrangements for the special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS. Some delegations pointed out that participation by the partners was already contemplated in the Thematic Committee and the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole. The latter delegations did not oppose the further participation of the partners in the plenary but argued that, given the limited time available and the number of potential speakers, partners should be allowed to speak in the plenary only if sufficient time remained after all Member States had had the opportunity to speak. Such a course of action, they maintained, was required by General Assembly resolution 55/194, which provided for a limited number of partners to speak "given the time available". One delegation suggested a compromise solution that would provide for partners to speak only if there were ample time after Governments had made their interventions, but would not limit the partners to two slots in each meeting.

32. The Committee of the Whole agreed to refer the outstanding issues under these items to the previously established open-ended working group.

33. At its 4th meeting, on 22 February, the Committee adopted the note prepared by the Chairperson on participation and accreditation of local authorities, non-governmental organizations and other Habitat Agenda partners (HS/C/PC.2/4/Add.2), and the note by the Chairperson on further arrangements regarding accreditation of Habitat Agenda partners to the special session (HS/C/PC.2/4/Add.4).

34. The coordinator of the open-ended working group reported on the outcome of the deliberations in the group. He explained that it had, so far, been unable to resolve the outstanding issues in connection with the allocation of speaking slots to Habitat Agenda partners at the plenary meetings of the special session (HS/C/PC.2/7/Add.1, para. 31).

35. At the 5th meeting of the Committee, on 22 February, the coordinator of the open-ended working group reported that no consensus had been reached on the issues raised in document HS/C/PC.2/7/Add.1, particularly its paragraph 31.

36. During the discussion, amendments to document HS/C/PC.2/7/Add.1 were proposed by the representatives of China and the United States of America. A statement was made by the representative of Sweden, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union.

37. The Committee agreed to transmit the text to the plenary for further consideration, placing the portion of text on which no consensus had been reached within square brackets and incorporating the amendments proposed from the floor.

Annex IV

Summary of the opening statement by the Chairperson of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee

The Chairperson of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee said that the task of the session was that entrusted to the Commission acting as the preparatory committee by the General Assembly, namely, to continue the work of preparation for the special session. It was expected to study the draft report of the Executive Director on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda at local, national and regional levels by both United Nations bodies and Governments, including the role played by local authorities and non-governmental organizations.

Part of the task would be the preparation of a final draft declaration on cities and other human settlements in the new millennium, which it was hoped would be adopted at the special session, after incorporating any further additions the General Assembly might consider necessary. Further areas for consideration would be the conclusions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at the coordination segment of its substantive session of 2000, on the coordinated implementation by the United Nations system of the Habitat Agenda, the resolutions adopted by the Commission on Human Settlements at its eighteenth session, and two draft resolutions submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, on the organization of work at the special session and the promotion of family support policies. The Commission acting as the preparatory committee would also study the proposal of the Executive Director with regard to the structuring of discussions between various partners in the Habitat Agenda.

Annex V

Summary of the closing statement by the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

The Executive Director said that participants had accomplished what they came to do at the current decisive session of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee. On her own behalf and on behalf of the secretariat, she thanked all participants for their valuable and hard work in Nairobi and for steering in the right direction towards the special session. She hoped that that sound and constructive process would result in a better and more successful special session.

Since the major outcome of the special session would be the declaration on cities and other human settlements in the new millennium, she congratulated participants on the progress made in the drafting committee and for the excellent spirit manifested by all delegations. The meeting had provided a solid text, with a limited number of brackets, which summarized well the achievements and obstacles, as well as future initiatives, in the worldwide implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

As a result of the gains made at the Istanbul Conference, the General Assembly in its resolution 55/194 had made arrangements for the participation of local authorities, non-governmental organizations and other Habitat Agenda partners in the special session and encouraged Governments also to include them in their delegations. Moreover, to improve the living conditions for hundreds of millions of the poor and inadequately housed all over the world, public-private partnership was required and, beyond that, the active engagement of all civil society.

Over the past five years, it had become clear that urbanization would be one of the key global policy challenges of the current century and the millennium. It would also affect rural areas in a very dramatic way. More than ever, that required that the words of the Habitat Agenda be turned into policies and real change on the ground, in cities and in the lives of ordinary people everywhere. It was necessary to operationalize the Habitat Agenda, including moving forward with the Cities without Slums action plan of the Cities Alliance, endorsed by world leaders at the Millennium Summit.

She firmly believed that the strengthening of local authorities, transparent, participatory and accountable urban governance and secure tenure should be among the priorities in moving forward after the special session. In that connection, she stressed the importance of collecting and evaluating global practical knowledge, experience and information that was so urgently required and needed to be shared. That required, in the final build-up to the special session, the continued participation of all levels of government and all other Habitat Agenda partners. To contribute to the exchange of new knowledge, the Centre, as the secretariat for the special session, had accelerated the production of the *Global Report on Human Settlements* and the *State of the World's Cities* report. Those two reports would be available at the special session.

The preparations for the special session had also intensified cooperation among the agencies of the United Nations system, which was a good sign for future cooperation among the entities of the United Nations system on the urbanization challenge.

The preparatory process for the special session had benefited from the provision of additional resources and she expressed her gratitude for the funding received from the Governments of Austria, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden.

She also expressed her gratitude to the Chairperson of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee, Germán García Durán, for his skilled leadership and important support throughout the meetings of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee. She also thanked the Vice-Chairpersons, the Rapporteur and all members of the Bureau, as well as the Government and people of the host country, Kenya.

At its recently concluded eighteenth session, the Commission on Human Settlements had taken decisions to strengthen substantially the Centre's capacity to better play its leadership role in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. The Centre was stronger today than yesterday, and she thanked the Member States for that vote of confidence, and all the partners from all regions of the world for their support of the Centre's work. She called upon all to participate at the highest possible level in the special session, so that it would become a milestone in the common effort to build a better world.

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